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Fifth Congressional District  
Wisconsin



Congressman  
**Jim Sensenbrenner**

NUMBER 185 – JUNE 2010



## 2010 Survey Questions

The 111<sup>th</sup> Congress is involved with many issues vital to you, your family and the nation. Please take a few minutes to complete this year's questionnaire. Mark your answer by placing an "X" in the space provided on the response card. In some cases, a YES or NO answer may seem oversimplified, but I am often left with that same choice when voting on complex legislation on the House floor. Please fill out the response card, and mail it to my Washington office by July 26. Thank you for your time.

- Do you believe the cap-and-trade proposal to cut greenhouse gas emissions will harm job creation in the U.S.?**  
a) Yes b) No c) Undecided
- Do you support the President's plan to scrap the replacement to the retiring shuttle, which would require NASA to rely on Russia to gain access to space?**  
a) Yes b) No c) Undecided
- Should taxpayer funds be used to pay for abortions in the new health care law?** a) Yes b) No c) Undecided
- Do you support amnesty for illegal immigrants?**  
a) Yes b) No c) Undecided
- Do you agree or disagree that it is the responsibility of the federal government to provide all Americans with health care coverage?**  
a) Agree b) Disagree c) Unsure
- Do you think the current size and scope of the federal government is appropriate?** a) Yes b) No c) Undecided
- During the economic downturn, some companies were deemed "too-big-to-fail" by the federal government and were bailed out using taxpayer dollars. What is your opinion on companies that are "too-big-to-fail?"**  
a) There is no such thing as too-big-to-fail. In a free market system, companies that are unsuccessful need to be allowed to fail to maintain long-term economic stability  
b) There are some companies that are so vital to our economic health that they are too-big-to-fail. When these companies are in financial trouble, the American taxpayer should provide monetary assistance  
c) Other
- What is the greatest domestic threat facing the United States today?**  
a) Wasteful government spending e) Domestic terrorism  
b) Economic instability f) Global warming  
c) Rising debt/deficit g) Other  
d) Illegal immigration
- What should the role of the federal government be in response to the ailing economy? (check one)**  
a) Bail out failing institutions, investors, and homeowners, who made risky decisions  
b) Increase taxes on the wealthy  
c) Do nothing. Let the free market fix itself  
d) Cut taxes to stimulate economic growth and reduce federal spending  
e) Other
- Do you approve of \$810 million being spent on a high speed rail from Milwaukee to Madison?**  
a) Yes b) No c) Undecided
- Who do you think is best suited to spend taxpayer dollars on education?**  
a) U.S. Congress d) Local school boards, teachers, and parents  
b) Department of Education  
c) Wisconsin State Legislature e) Other
- What county do you live in?**  
a) Jefferson County d) Washington County  
b) Milwaukee County e) Waukesha County  
c) Ozaukee County
- Are you interested in receiving news updates from Congressman Sensenbrenner via email?**  
a) Yes b) No

## THE FIVE VOTES THAT COUNT

Since the health care legislation passed, the American people have been learning what's in it, and it's not pretty. Apart from the many effective dates that were strategically designed by the bill's drafters to take effect after 2012—the *legislation also contains provisions that many, including myself, believe infringe on the constitutional rights of all Americans.*

Every option to repeal this legislation and replace it with something better has been considered. However, I believe *the only legitimate option the American public has to halt this new law is for the courts to get involved.*

One of my primary issues with the health care law is what I consider to be an unconstitutional use of the Commerce Clause. *Our founding fathers established the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights to limit federal power, not to give Congress a free pass to do as they will.* The health care law will force many citizens to buy government-approved health insurance.

Individuals who do not comply with the mandate will be punished by an annual tax penalty that will rise to \$750 or 2 percent of a person's income, whichever is greater, by 2016.

Not only do I think this is unconstitutional, but it's also unprecedented. Throughout history, the Commerce Clause has never been used by Congress to require that citizens purchase a product from a private company in order to be a law-abiding citizen.

This is uncharted water, so it is likely that the Supreme Court will review whether this violates the constitutional rights of citizens, as the Attorneys General of numerous

states have suggested (the Wisconsin Governor and State Legislature would not give authority for Wisconsin's Attorney General to join in this lawsuit). The Court has often rebuked Congress for overreaching, so there is a good chance that there may not be five justices on the Supreme Court who would vote in favor of granting Congress even more authority.

This authority issue came up at one of my Town Hall Meetings earlier this year, when a gentleman asked me "What's the role of the federal government?" My response was very simple and straight forward: "The role of the federal government is what the Constitution says it is—no more, no less."

*If the Supreme Court does grant Congress more power if they allow Congress to force Americans to buy a product—we'll need to ask ourselves where the line is drawn for limited government as our Constitution dictated.* That ruling would essentially allow Congress unlimited power—whether that be mandating us to buy a certain product, such as a GM car to help the government-supported auto industry or require everyone to grow their own vegetables.

Democrats used the individual mandate as a way to try to keep costs lower in the health care bill, but I don't believe this can be achieved. In my opinion, the court should strike down the individual mandate component, and as a result this would essentially gut the new health care law.

*Now that we know what's in the new law, I am hopeful that it is only a matter of time before the courts decide the law violates our Constitutional rights.*

## Survey Answers

### Respondent One:

- a  b  c
- a  b  c
- a  b  c
- a  b  c
- a  b  c
- a  b  c
- a  b  c
- a  b  c  d  e  f  g
- a  b  c  d
- a  b  c
- a  b  c  d  e
- a  b  c  d  e
- a  b email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Respondent Two:

- a  b  c
- a  b  c
- a  b  c
- a  b  c
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- a  b  c
- a  b  c  d  e  f  g
- a  b  c  d
- a  b  c
- a  b  c  d  e
- a  b  c  d  e
- a  b email: \_\_\_\_\_

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clicking on "Sign up for News from  
Jim" on the right side of the page.

# Keys to Immigration Reform

IMMIGRATION CONTINUES to dominate the headlines and cause concern among Americans.

The statewide immigration law Arizona recently passed brought many of these issues back to the forefront. *The simple truth is that had Congress dealt with the immigration issues in 2005, when I brought it up as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, the Arizona law would not have been necessary.* Instead, states have been left with no choice but to take action.

The Obama administration isn't enforcing immigration laws already passed by Congress. *According to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), since the President took office, worksite arrests of both illegal employees, as well as the employers who hired them, have significantly decreased.*

Enforcing the laws that are already on the books could open up jobs for Americans and legal immigrants who need them, as well as cut costs across the board. Arizona, along with other states, have a right to be concerned with the strain illegal immigrants place on the local school and health care systems, as well as the overall costs to taxpayers. I don't blame Arizona for searching for a solution, and most polling says the majority of America agrees.

Yet, some lawmakers don't see it this way. In my opinion, some lawmakers, believe offering amnesty (whether it's sugarcoated as comprehensive immigration reform, a path to citizenship, or earned legalization—it is amnesty) is a good way to gain legislative support.

But here's the problem with that short-sighted thinking: much like quickly passing the stimulus and health care in the name of economic recovery—the short-term gains one side of the aisle might receive would be at the long term expense of every

American and legal immigrant worker, as well as our economy. Let's hope they rethink this and want better for our nation. Illegal immigration is a problem that requires bipartisan cooperation in developing a meaningful solution.

I believe the key to immigration reform must include 5 pillars.

- 1) *Secure our nation's borders.*
- 2) *Crack down on employers who hire illegal immigrants, ending the job magnet that brings illegal immigrants to our country in the first place.*
- 3) *Increase the penalties against people who smuggle illegal immigrants into the U.S.*
- 4) *Hold those here illegally accountable for their actions.*
- 5) *Make E-Verify and SAVE programs permanent; programs that easily allow an employer or an agency to verify eligibility for employment or government sponsored benefits.*

We should not reward illegal behavior by granting amnesty to those who have broken the law, and allowing them to cut ahead of individuals patiently waiting their turn for citizenship... Individuals like a longtime resident of the Fifth District whom my office has been helping in the process of bringing his family members here from India. This constituent applied for his family in 1999. Finally, this month—well over a decade later—his family will receive their visas and they will soon be reunited.

As House and Senate leaders look to take up this issue, let's not think about the short term gains, but let's work together to really concentrate on good policies that are best for America and Americans in the short and long run.

[sensenbrenner.house.gov](http://sensenbrenner.house.gov)

# Please Join Me at an Upcoming Town Hall Meeting or Office Hours

As Congress is discussing many important topics that might have an impact on you, I welcome and encourage you to attend one or more of these meetings and share what's on your mind, say hello or receive assistance with a federal agency. If you need any special accommodations to attend, please contact my district office at (262) 784-1111.

## Sunday, June 27th

7:00pm Cedarburg Police Department

## Tuesday, July 6th

9:00 am Newburg Village Hall  
 9:45 am Fredonia Town & Village Hall  
 10:30 am Belgium Village Hall  
 11:30 am Saukville Village Hall  
 1:15 pm River Hills Village Hall  
 2:00 pm Fox Point Village Hall  
 2:45 pm Bayside Village Hall

## Thursday, July 8th

9:00 am Kewaskum Village Hall  
 10:00 am Addison Town Hall  
 10:45 am Jackson Village Hall  
 12:45 pm Sussex Village Hall  
 1:30 pm Lannon Village Hall  
 2:30 pm Butler Village Hall

## Sunday, July 11th

7:00 pm West Bend City Hall

## Monday, July 12th

8:30 am Helenville Fire Hall  
 9:15 am Sullivan Village Hall  
 10:00 am Palmyra Village Hall  
 11:00 am Dousman Village Hall  
 11:45 am Genesee Town Hall  
 12:30 pm Wales Village Hall  
 2:15 pm Nashotah Village Hall  
 3:00 pm Merton Town Hall  
 3:45 pm Merton Village Hall

## Sunday, July 18th

7:00 pm Brookfield Public Safety Building

## Sunday, July 25th

7:00 pm Whitefish Bay Village Hall

Congressman Sensenbrenner answers a constituent's question at his Town Hall Meeting at the Wauwatosa Public Library on April 8, held with State Representative Leah Vukmir. Congressman Sensenbrenner has already held more than 70 Town Hall Meetings or Office Hours this year. One of the most important things the Congressman does as your Representative is assist you with federal problems. He can often intervene on your behalf to answer questions, find solutions or just cut through the red tape. If you are having a problem with a federal agency, please come to a Town Hall Meeting or Office Hours, or contact the District Office in Brookfield at 262-784-1111 or 1-800-242-1119. The Congressman will be happy to assist you.



## Contact Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner

**Washington, DC Office**  
 To write about issues pending in Congress, internships, flags, or tours, contact:  
 2449 Rayburn House Office Building  
 Washington, D.C. 20515-4905  
 Telephone: (202) 225-5101  
 Fax: (202) 225-3190

**Brookfield Office**  
 To get help with problems with federal agencies contact:  
 120 Bishops Way, Room 154  
 Brookfield, WI 53005-6294  
 Telephone: (262) 784-1111  
 Fax: (262) 784-9437  
 Hotline: 1-800-242-1119



Congressman Sensenbrenner spoke at a National Press Club event about the new health care law on May 11. In his remarks, Congressman Sensenbrenner addressed the constitutional issues of the recently passed health care legislation, including the Commerce Clause and the Fifth Amendment. The other panel member was Randy E. Barnett, Professor of Constitutional Law at Georgetown University Law Center, and the event was moderated by Tom Fitton, President of Judicial Watch.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner**  
 2449 Rayburn House Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20515-4905